

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

The Legal Department commences, prosecutes, and defends all legal actions and other matters on behalf of the Town in all state and federal courts and administrative agencies. The Department functions as a full-service law office handling nearly all of the Town's litigation in-house. In addition to its litigation function, the Department furnishes legal opinions and advice on a daily basis on matters referred to it by the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, the School Department, and the various Town Department heads. Additionally, the Department provides legal advice to all Town officials, boards, committees, and employees concerning their legal responsibilities and prerogatives, attends meetings and counsels Town departments on legal issues related to operational and project-related matters as they arise. The Town Counsel drafts and prepares warrant articles and votes at Town Meeting. The Department investigates all claims, advises and monitors Town regulatory compliance, and coordinates all legal affairs of local government.

As a corporation, the Town is constantly involved in contractual and other legal arrangements with public and private agencies in the purchase of properties and materials, the rendering of services and awarding of grants. The Legal Department prepares applications, contracts, leases, deeds and other legal instruments concerning these matters. Additionally, the Department drafts, reviews, and approves a wide range of other legal instruments including licenses, releases, easements, and a multitude of other documents required for the orderly accomplishment of the Town's increasingly complex daily legal municipal issues.

The Department manages and directs the Town's Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance program. Through the timely processing of claims and the attentive investigation of accidents, the department aims to protect workers from the economic consequences of injury, promote safe work environments, assist injured employees in both their medical recovery and return to work, and seeks overall to limit the Town's liability consistent with the fair treatment of injured workers. In coordination with participating network pharmacies, the Department manages an in-house prescription program with the goal of maximizing generic substitutions, providing greater control authorization for drugs outside our formulary design, reducing costs to the Town commencing at the point of fill and eliminating "first-fill" out-of-pocket prescription expense to the injured employee. The Department also prepares and litigates all contested Workers' Compensation cases before the Department of Industrial Accidents as well as reviewing and responding to any pending legislation affecting the Town's Workers' Compensation program.

The Department oversees line of duty injury claims